



**State of Connecticut**  
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**Higher Education Committee Public Hearing**

**Testimony of State Representative Carlo Leone  
in Support of HB 5837**

**An Act Concerning Cooperation Between Vocational-Technical Schools and Regional  
Community-Technical Colleges**

Chairman Handley, Chairman Willis, members of the Higher Education Committee, for the record my name is State Representative Carlo Leone from the 148<sup>th</sup> District in Stamford. First I would like to thank the committee for raising this bill and the opportunity to speak here today.

This legislation would allow vocational-technical schools and regional community-technical colleges to coordinate courses, allow for the transfer of credits, streamline costs and create a student feeder program into the state system of higher education.

The intent here is to allow two willing entities that see a value in cooperating with each other, the opportunity to do so in a way that fosters educational career paths for students in our region. This cooperation is a result of our delegation and community leaders working together to make our school programs successful and to ultimately save them. Our approach here is to give local and regional schools that have an interest in working together the opportunity to do so.

Our technical schools and community colleges are the foundation of our workforce. This opportunity will help create a greater cooperation that will serve both schools in our region and more importantly the students. In particular, it will help technical schools such as J.M. Wright in Stamford to develop programs that increase enrollment of students who know a career path is available, which will include training for a specific jobs or trades all the way through our higher education system. Not every student wants to or can afford to go to a four year college. Many just want to be trained for a specific job, field or trade. This legislation would allow just that. And in this economy having a specific skill set to take advantage of the jobs that are still out there is needed now more than ever.

I look forward to working with the committee on developing this legislation and I thank you for the opportunity to testify here today. With that I would be happy to answer any questions committee members may have.